Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The Bill shall devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Appointment of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court

55. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges appointed in various High Courts after July, 2004 till date and their social background;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no proper representaion to OBCs in Supreme Court bench as per the OBC population;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that person belonging to the second largest language spoken in the country has not been represented in Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal before Government to rectify the anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) A total of 260 Judges were appointed in various High Courts during the period from July, 2004 to January, 2007.

Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained by the Government in regard to the appointment of SCs/STs/OBCs in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Pursuant to the Judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, and the Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court dated October 28, 1998, the proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, respectively. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and

the Chief Justice of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and amongst women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Irregularities in revision of electoral rolls

†56. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding irregularities in electoral rolls;

(b) if so, the number of names deleted from the electoral rolls during the last two revisions in each State;

(c) the number of persons whose applications have been rejected with regard to voter identity cards; and

(d) the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that there is no centralized system of maintaining the individual records of complaints and disposal thereof at the Commission level. The Electoral Registration Officers at district and/or sub-division level, are statutory authorities responsible for maintenance and updation of electoral rolls. Complaints are received and acted upon by them on the basis of the guidelines issued by the Commission. Besides Electoral Registration Officer, the complaints can also be recieved at the level of District Election Officers and Chief Electoral Officer. These complaints too are sent to the Electoral Registration Officer for taking appropriate action.

(c) and (d) Voter I-Card is issued to a person whose name is registered in the electoral roll in force by the Electoral Registration Officer. The electors are not required to file any application for the same.

National Policy and Action Plan for computerisation of Courts

57. SHR K. E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.